

The Human Touch

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In This Issue:

- Sarah Houser p.2
- Jenny Lutu p.3
- Hearts of Gold p.3
- Brittney Crockett p.4
- TAL Conference p.6
- Training Tidbits p.7

And More!

Director's Message

Congratulations to the Human Services employees who will be receiving their Years of Service Recognition at the Annual Director's Lunch this month.

I am very proud to say that we have 7 people who will be receiving their 35 Year AWARD! This is an amazing amount of dedication. We also have many in the 20, 25 and 30 year categories; what a tribute to the rest of you for making this such a great place to work. As I visit the field offices and ask workers why they do it, the most common response I hear is "I love the clients" or "I love the people I work with." I know how you feel.

There is nothing like working at a job where you share each other's ideals and those around you care so much about doing an excellent job.

At the luncheon we will also be awarding our Supervisor of the Year, Cultural Excellence, Executive Director's and Career Achievement Awards. I appreciate all that our employees do to go above and beyond what is required. You really make a difference.

We are starting into preparation for the legislative session and the economy continues to look a bit gloomy. The Department is looking



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

at only mandatory budget requests, and even those will be scrutinized carefully by the Governor and the legislature. We have had to put some budget restrictions in place to control things like travel and food. I am grateful for the employee's support of these restrictions, even though I know it makes your already difficult job even harder. I will do what I can to advocate for our programs.

This month we are enthusiastic in our support for the Charitable Fund Drive. Thank you to all who have donated thus far and please remember that the time to donate ends Nov 14th. Many of you already give of your time and talents as well as your money so thanks for all you do!

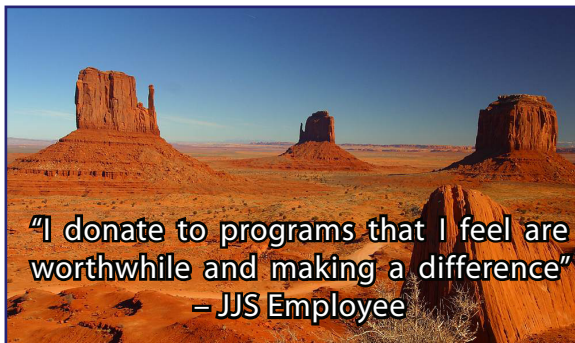
Utah State Employees' Charitable Fund (USECF) Campaign 2009

By Julie Fisher, Office of Fiscal Operations

It's that time again... no, not the time to choose between donkeys and elephants... time to reflect on the last year and look forward to 2009. This year has been hard for many, but thanks in part to over 4% of DHS employees who gave \$38,613.00, numerous families were impacted last year.

The 2009 USECF Campaign begins September 22nd and ends November 14th! You can donate on our secure website

<http://www.usecf.state.ut.us> and have the money taken directly from your 2009 paychecks OR the cash/CHECK donations can go toward your 2008 tax year donations. "I like that its simple, I don't have to write several checks to this charity and that charity. I can budget a set amount each year and have it taken out as a payroll deduction," said one OFO employee. All of the money, yes that is right 100% of the money you donate goes



directly to the charity YOU chose.

Remember it doesn't matter how much you give, one person (this could be YOU) can make a difference. Let's "go for the gold" this year and increase our participation by 5%.

For further information or questions, contact Joseph Gonzales, DHS (USECF) Coordinator at jgonzalez@utah.gov or (801) 538-8270.

DCFS Worker Helps Solve Child Abduction Case

By Angelique Colemere, Executive Director's Office

Salt Lake City - In May of 2000, Riverside California County Superior Court issued a felony child abduction warrant for a mother charged with fleeing with her infant after sole custody of the child was denied.

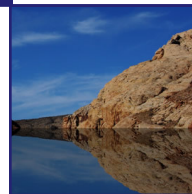
The case was unsolved for eight years until investigators found the mother had ties to people in Utah and were referred to Sarah Houser, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Houser worked with the Riverside Child Recovery Unit and found that the child, whose name was changed, had been placed for adoption in Utah in 2002. She provided investigators with court documents that corroborated the adoption and assisted in confirming the child's real identity.

In March, 2008 with the help of the National Center for Exploited and Missing Children, the U.S. Marshal's Office arrested the mother who was sentenced to two years in state prison; although legal matters prevented Riverside from recovering the child. "The District Attorney's Office would like to



extend our sincere appreciation to Houser for the outstanding efforts she provided to our Child Recovery Unit," said Victor Green, Chief of Investigators at County Riverside District Attorney's Office, "I am certain that the successes that we experienced were in part because of Houser's dedicated support and advocacy".

With children's safety being a first priority, it is good to know that Utah has caseworkers with a desire to help all children even those that extend beyond our state borders.





Jenny Lutu, First Chance Scholarship Recipient

By Jane Lewis, Child and Family Services

Salt Lake City - First Chance Scholarships, offered through a partnership with University of Phoenix and the National Foster Parent Association, are awarded to young people who were or currently are in kinship care, foster care or a group home. The scholarships provide full tuition to fifty recipients, with limited resources, who have hopes of obtaining a college degree. Jenny Lutu, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) was chosen this year, from hundreds of applicants across the nation, and highlighted for her essay explaining her desire to advance in education, career, and community service.

Upon receiving the award, Lutu stated, "Having the great opportunity to receive the scholarship means endless opportunity. I now have the chance to take my education to another level; a new height that I did not know would be an option. My future is completely up to me and what I choose to do with my education is just a step away! Thank you". "We are confident that this accomplish-



ment will be among many as Jenny fulfills her commitment to academic success," said Pat Bagley, University of Phoenix.

Lutu, a former foster care child, now employed by DCFS as the Transition to Adult Living (TAL) Youth Coordinator, is building a strong alumni association. She hopes to further her studies in business communications and encourage other young people emancipating from foster care to further their education.

Hearts of Gold

By Chris Chytraus, Salt Lake Valley Region, Quality Improvement Committee

Salt Lake – Six DCFS employees were presented with the "Heart of Gold" award at the August Salt Lake Valley Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) meeting. Recipients were nominated by their co-workers and individually recognized for their partnering and collaboration, innovative approaches to meeting clients' needs, creating new ideas for practice, meeting minimum performance requirements, life changing events managed by the worker for the client and strong interactions with the community.

Sheri Morris was congratulated for her ongoing compassion, empathy and attention to personal details of clients.

Vedrana Ilic was recognized for her quick learning of protocol and diligent advocating for her clients.

Melinda Leonard was singled out for her work with youth transitioning out of the system as adults.

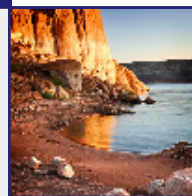
Stefanie Neeley, was noted for her compassion in working with families in the state foster care system.



Christine Peasley, was highlighted for her thorough understanding of best practice model and innovative approach with families.

Roland Oliver was honored for his partnering and community outreach efforts, especially with assisting youth with job interviews to ensure independence.

The Heart of Gold Awards are presented annually by the SLV QIC Committee and are a way to honor the wonderful work the case-workers provide to our community.



Prostate Cancer and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

By Utah Department of Health

Prostate and ovarian cancers will claim the lives of an estimated 42,000 men and women in the United States this year; however progress is being made in the war against both forms of cancer. September is prostate and ovarian cancer awareness month, so take this time to learn more about what you can do to reduce your risk!

Prostate Cancer

It is important to screen early and often. All men age 50 and older should undergo annual screenings for prostate cancer, while men with one or more risk factors should begin annual tests at age 45 or younger. Those at the highest risk for prostate cancer include men who have a family history of the disease, are obese, consume a high-fat diet, or are exposed to pesticides. Although one in six American men are at risk for prostate cancer in their lifetime, there are ways to reduce the potential, starting with a low-fat diet that is heavy on fruits and vegetables.

Ovarian Cancer

Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death among women living in the United States. The symptoms include pelvic and abdominal pain, urinary frequency and urgency,

increased abdominal size and bloating, difficulty eating, or feeling full quickly. Unlike prostate cancer, there is no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer. This means that it is even more important to know the symptoms and risk factors. According to the Johns Hopkins Ovarian Cancer Center of Excellence, the primary risk factors are family history, being age 50 or older, having no children, and past history of breast cancer. A high-fat diet also appears to increase the risk.

Prevention

Eating right, being active, and maintaining a healthy weight are important ways to reduce your risk of cancer. Learn the American Cancer Society's guidelines for diet and activity and find tips for a healthy lifestyle. Visit this website for more information on how to reduce your risk of cancer: http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/ped_3.asp?sitearea=PED

Resources:

<http://www.utahcancer.org/>

<http://www.fightprostatecancer.org/>

<http://www.ovarian.org/>

"Go, Fight, Win"

By Jennifer Evans, Office of Fiscal Operations

Syracuse – Syracuse High School has a cheerleader this year that has given new meaning to "a dream come true". Brittney Crockett always wanted to be a cheerleader. Unfortunately, due to Muscular Dystrophy she was never able to try out for the squad. Muscular Dystrophy causes progressive muscle weakness and prevents Crockett from standing. When the other cheerleaders learned about Crockett's wish they got together with school officials to make her an honorary Titan cheerleader. Crockett was given a uniform and pom poms and was introduced to the student body at a recent school assembly. "It was so amazing and so much fun," Crockett told news reporters, "I never thought this would happen."

This star cheerleader is the daughter of Doug Crockett, a contract/grant analyst for Child and Family Services. Doug and Heidi Crockett have always aimed to provide their daughter with opportunities for a normal life. "She was supposed to be gone by the age of 2, but she is a determined person" said Heidi. Doug referred to him-



self as, "proud papa bear" as he spread the news about his daughter's latest accomplishment.

Crockett has already started cheering at games; decorating her wheelchair and doing fancy spins to show off a little. She hopes to show others with diseases and disabilities that they can accomplish anything in life. "I want to be an example," Crockett said, "I want to show them that anything is possible. Just look at me."

Postcards

In the Spirit of the Youth

By Roland Oliver, Child and Family Services

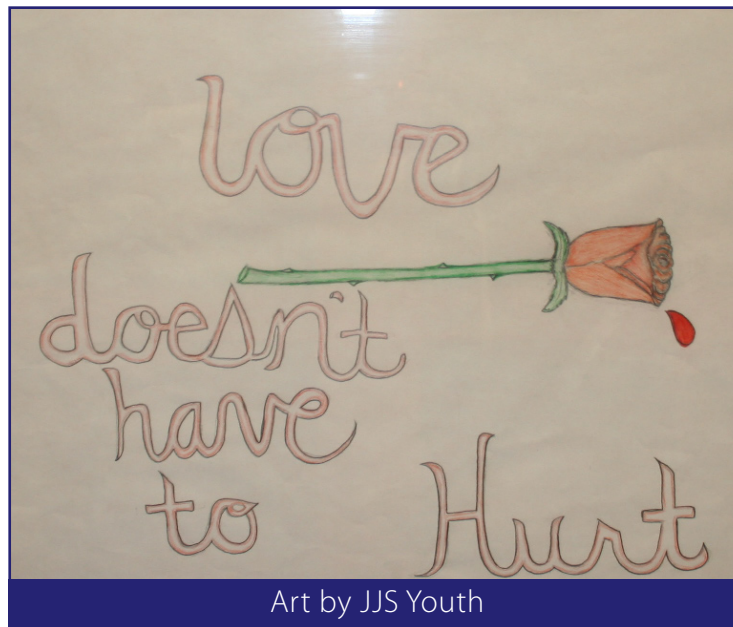
Salt Lake City – There is a great deal of artistic talent among our youth currently in custody or those once involved with various state systems. Be it painting, poetry or music, these youth have found a positive way of expression that deserves recognition. Various offices within Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice Services and Substance Abuse and Mental Health have the youth's talent on display. Employees are encouraged to take the time to appreciate the art these youth so eloquently created to express their struggles, strengths and desires in life.

In recognition of the youth talent, this month's "Postcards" highlights the poetry of a creative young man once in foster care – he is now an adult moving forward with hopes of a successful future.

IF THE WORLD WAS BLIND

If the world was blind
Then maybe we can see,
The true side of beauty deep
within you and me.
No one would judge us by our
outer looks,
Like the fancy covers on ex-
pensive books.
We would see with our hearts
and not with our eyes,
Then what we discover might
be a surprise.
We would have no need to try
and impress,
By the way the way we look or
the way that we dress.
The only thing that would mat-
ter is the way that we feel,
Not phony or cheap, but truth-
ful and real.

M. W., Author



Art by JJS Youth

TAL - Destination Future 2008

By Daniel Brennan, Child and Family Service

Chevy Chase, MD – Destination Future 2008 Conference was held this August in Maryland. The conference incorporates two main goals, increasing the civic engagement capacity of young people in care or recently emancipated from care through training and development skills and providing a mechanism for those youth to give input to providers and policy makers on issues that impact children and youth in out-of-home care.

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) sent six youth and two caseworkers to the conference this year. Youth were chosen for their previous or anticipated involvement in the Utah Youth Council, performance in Transition to Adult Living (TAL) basic life skills classes and general progress in foster care. Motivational speakers spoke to the kids about overcoming obstacles and utilizing leadership qualities to make change. Youth were charged with identifying barriers and exploring possibilities of developing a career path without a college education and determining how the foster care system can be enhanced to



National 4-H Youth Conference Center
Chevy Chase, MD

assist youth when choosing their career. "I enjoyed the speakers," said one of the youth. "It was also fun to meet kids from other states with similar experience."

DCFS Director Duane Betournay strongly advocated for sending the group to the conference. "This was an excellent opportunity for our youth to learn leadership skills," said Betournay. "And to bring those skills back to the Region to advocate for the services provided to youth in Utah."

Neurobehavior HOME Program Offers Support Group

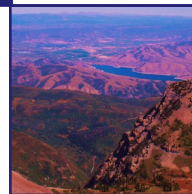
"Are you a parent or staff of an individual with disabilities and looking for a support network?" The Neurobehavior HOME Program hosts an on-going open discussion group for parents and staff of people with developmental disabilities. The group is held at the Neurobehavior HOME Program the first Friday of each month from 11-12pm. Group facilitators are licensed therapists with a background in behavior modification. No registration required. Babysitting is not available at the Clinic. For further information please contact, Stephanie O'Brien @ 585-1933.

Did you know that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month? It is a time to celebrate the contributions and skills of workers with disabilities.

Check out:

www.hstraining.utah.gov to a list of available training for DHS employees. You can also visit:

www.workabilityutah.org to learn more about other events throughout the month.



The Human Touch

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Training Tidbits

Proper training is essential to best serving our consumers. Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

17th Annual Domestic Violence Council Conference

September 16-19, 2008

Salt Palace Convention Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information or to register, go to

<http://www.udvc.org>

American Indian Wellness Conference

"Sunrise to Sunset: Health Across the Lifespan"

September 30, 2008

Davis Convention Center

Layton, Utah

For more information or to register, contact Ming Wang, 801-538-4276, mwang@utah.gov

Utah State Developmental Center Fall Conference

October 1, 2008

Utah State Developmental Center

American Fork, Utah

For additional information contact Dan Chase, 801-763-4261, dchase@utah.gov.

Utah Fall Substance Abuse Conference

October 1-3, 2008

Davis Conference Center

Layton, Utah

For more information or to register, go to

<http://www.utahsamh.com/>

National Drug Endangered Children Conference

October 6-8, 2008

Radisson Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information or to register, visit the website,

<http://nationaldec.org/Conference/conference.htm#2007Conf>

Take what you can use and let the rest go by.

- Ken Kesey



Brain Injury Association of Utah 19th Annual Family and Professionals Conference

October 9-10, 2008

Davis Conference Center

Layton, Utah

For more information go to www.biau.org

Family Links Conference Southeast

October 10-11, 2008

San Juan High School

Blanding, Utah

For more information go to

www.utahparentcenter.org

JOINING FORCES 21st Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Family Violence

November 3-5, 2008

Marriot City Center Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information go to

www.preventchildabuseutah.org

Critical Issues Facing Children & Adolescents

November 13-14, 2008

Hilton – Salt Lake City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information call 801-501-9446.